

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03763 280619Z

20

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

----- 084605

P R 271438Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

SECSTATE WASHDC 1364

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 3763

ROME: PASS SENATOR BAKER

DEPT: PASS TO PAT HOLT, SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (BAKER, HOWARD)

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, MAY 24, NEAR CAIRO

1. INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AT THE "BARRAGES,"
OUTSIDE CAIRO--MAY 24, 1975--BY SENATOR HOWARD BAKER:

2. BEGIN QUOTE: IN THE OPENING AMENITIES PRESIDENT SADAT
SHOWED THAT HE WORE THE MANTLE OF HIS OFFICE WITH GRACE
AND EASE, AND ALSO WITH A GOOD DEAL OF CONFIDENCE.

3. I CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT AT THE OUTSET MY IMPRESSION
THAT THERE SEEMED TO BE A WIDESPREAD BELIEF AMONG ISRAELIS
THAT THING MUST CHANGE, AN UNEASY AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR
A NEW FLEXIBILITY. I SAID TOO THAT I THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE
EASIER FOR ISRAEL TO DEAL WITH EGYPT THAN WITH ANY OTHER ARAB
STATE, DESPITE THE FAILURE OF THE RECENT DISENGAGEMENT TALKS.

4. "THE ISRAELIS," SAID MR. SADAT, "ARE IN CONFUSION." WE
HAVE ALL KNOWN SINCE THE OCTOBER WAR THAT THE ISSUE CANNOT BE
RESOLVED BY WAR, HE SAID. AND "YOU GIVE THEM EVERYTHING,"
THE PRESIDENT ADDED, BUT THEY STILL OBSTRUCT AMERICAN MEDIATION
EFFORTS. "WHAT ISRAEL HAS DONE TO YOU IS A TRAGEDY."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03763 280619Z

5. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN WITH REPORTS OF MASSIVE SOVIET ARMS AID TO LIBYA. THEY ARE PROVIDING THE LIBYANS WITH 2000 T-62 TANKS, WHICH ARE THEIR MOST ADVANCED, AS WELL AS SAM-6'S AND SAM-7'S AND OTHER MODERN EQUIPMENT-- "AND WE NEVER KNEW ABOUT IT." THE RUSSIANS, HE SAID, ARE ALSO BUILDING A PORT AT TOBRUK. THE LIBYANS CANNOT POSSIBLY USE THIS EQUIPMENT BY THEMSELVES, THE PRESIDENT SAID; THEY WILL NEED "AT LEAST 50 YEARS" TO MASTER THE NEW TECHNOLOGY. THE SOVIETS WILL, THEREFORE, COME IN WITH ADVISORS, AND WILL NOW HAVE A NAVAL PRESENCE ALONG 2000 KILOMETERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST. "I AM AIMED AT," SAID THE PRESIDENT, "BUT SO ARE YOU."

6. I ASKED PRESIDENT SADAT ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LEBANON.

7. "I PROPHESED THIS," HE SAID. THE LEBANESE PHALANGISTS AND THE PALESTINIANS ARE BOTH TO BLAME FOR THE VIOLENCE, IN PRESIDENT SADAT'S OPINION. BOTH HAVE HEAVY ARMS; BOTH ARE STRONGER MILITARILY THAN THE GOVERNMENT. THE PLO EVEN HAVE SAM-7'S, SAID MR. SADAT. HE SAID THAT ARAFAT HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD BROUGHT THEM ON THE STREETS OF BEIRUT. "I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC," HE ADDED.

8. WHAT ABOUT ARAFAT HIMSELF? I ASKED.

9. ARAFAT, THE PRESIDENT REPLIED, IS "A VERY GOOD MAN, THE MOST MODERATE IN THE PLO." BUT HE IS ALSO "VERY WEAK"--WEAK "AS A PERSON." ARAFAT TRIES TO COMPROMISE HERE AND THERE, SAID MR. SADAT, BUT "HE IS NOT IN CONTROL OF THE PLO. HE DOES NOT CONTROL THEM." BUT DESPITE HIS WEAKNESS ARAFAT IS THE BEST, AND HE LEADS THE LARGEST PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION, FATAH.

10. I NEXT ASKED THE PRESIDENT IF STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY COULD BE REVIVED.

11. MR. SADAT REPLIED THAT BEFORE EVERYTHING ELSE THE UNITED STATES MUST MAKE AN OVERALL PROPOSAL FOR PEACE, WHICH COULD THEN BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH A GRADUAL STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS. HE EMPHASIZED THIS APPROACH AS CONTRASTING WITH THE STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH OF THE PAST, WHICH DID NOT ENCOMPASS AN OVERALL PLAN FOR A GENERAL SETTLEMENT. THE DIFFERENCE IS THAT IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03763 280619Z

THERE WERE A GENERALLY AGREED OVERALL PLAN, THE STEPS TAKEN WOULD BE TOWARD A KNOWN OBJECTIVE, WHEREAS IN THE PAST THE PARTIES TOOK STEPS WITHOUT AGREEMENT AS TO WHERE THEY WERE GOING. WITHOUT SUCH AN INITIATIVE ON THE PART OF THE US, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID, GENEVA WOULD FAIL, OPENING THE WAY FOR THE RUSSIANS TO MAKE DIFFICULTIES FOR EVERYONE.

12. THE OVERALL PLAN MR. SADAT HAS IN MIND IS THE RETURN

OF ISRAEL TO THE BORDERS OF 1967 WITH MINOR RECTIFICATIONS. ASKED IF THAT WERE HIS PLAN, HE REPLIED, "IT IS OKAY." BUT THE UNITED STATES, HE WENT ON, DOES NOT MAKE ITS POSITION CLEAR. AND THE SOVIET UNION IS ENABLED IN CONSEQUENCE TO POSE AS THE ONLY FRIEND OF THE ARABS. IF THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT OFFER A PLAN OF PEACE, THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED, IT WILL BE FAR WORSE OFF FOR HAVING GONE THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF REASSESSING ITS POLICY AND COMING UP WITH NOTHING.

13. I TOLD THE PRESIDENT IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT EVERYONE WANTED TO PUT OFF GENEVA. "QUITE RIGHT," HE SAID, AND THAT INCLUDES THE SOVIET UNION; GROMYKO HAD SO TOLD FARMY. AND HAVING MADE THIS MOVE IN LIBYA, HE ADDED, THE RUSSIANS ARE BIDDING FOR THE "UPPER HAND" IN THIS AREA.

14. HOW CAN WE HELP? I ASKED.

15. THE UNITED STATES MUST SOLVE THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT "BEFORE EVERYTHING," HE REPLIED. AND, HE EMPHASIZED, IT MUST BE DONE BY THE UNITED STATES, NOT BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TOGETHER. HE WOULD ALSO BE ASKING THE US TO SELL ARMS--"DEFENSIVE ARMS"--TO EGYPT--"TO HELP ME AS YOUR FRIEND." THE UNITED STATES, THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED, NEEDS A SUCCESS IN THIS ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM. "AND AFTER THAT I SHALL BE ASKING FOR ARMS."

16. I NOTE AS A MATTER OF INTEREST THAT PRESIDENT SADAT MADE NO MENTION IN THIS INTERVIEW OF THE LETTER SIGNED BY 76 SENATORS EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF ISRAEL, EVEN THROUGH THAT LETTER WAS MUCH IN THE NEWS THAT DAY.) END QUOTE.
AKINS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA03763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750185-0957
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750517/aaaaapig.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERVIEW WITH PRESIDENT SADAT, MAY 24, NEAR CAIRO
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, EG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR), (BAKER, HOWARD)
To: ROME STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006